



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
**HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY DENTAL COMMAND**  
**2050 WORTH ROAD**  
**FORT SAM HOUSTON, TEXAS 78234-6000**

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

MCDS

15 August 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR Commanders, U.S. Army Regional Dental Commands (RDCs), U.S. Army Dental Activities (DENTACs), and U.S. Army Dental Clinic Commands (DCCs)

SUBJECT: U.S. Army Dental Command (DENCOM) Policy Letter 03-30, Clinical Practice for Commanders

1. SCOPE: This policy applies to all RDC, DENTAC, and DCC Commanders.

2. BACKGROUND:

a. Dental officers receive special pays in recognition of the unique services we provide as healthcare professionals. It is incumbent upon all of us to maximize patient care to continue to validate our worth to the Army. Dental Additional Special Pay (DASP) and the Dental Officer Multiyear Retention Bonus (DOMRB) are awarded based on the dental officer's performance of patient care and maintenance of clinical privileges in accordance with Army Regulation (AR) 40-68.

b. The continued practice of dentistry maintains clinical competency and ensures that the practice hour requirements of many state dental boards for licensure by credentials will be met.

c. One of the primary justifications for dentists commanding dental units has been that our commanders are engaged in active clinical practice and are therefore best qualified to command dental units.

3. POLICY:

a. As healthcare professionals, I expect every dental officer in the Dental Command to practice in their chosen profession. All of our dental officers possess the unique talent and skills to provide quality dental services to our deserving beneficiaries – the soldiers of the Army. I recognize that commanders have multiple command commitments and duties that detract from active clinical practice. However, the following guidelines for patient care time have been established by the Corps Chief to help commanders balance administrative requirements with clinical practice:

MCDS

SUBJECT: U.S. Army Dental Command (DENCOM) Policy Letter, Clinical Practice for Commanders

(1) RDC Commanders will engage in clinical practice 10 to 20 percent of their duty time.

(2) DENTAC Commanders will engage in clinical practice 40 to 60 percent of their duty time.

(3) DCC Commanders will engage in clinical practice 75 percent of the time.

b. These guidelines are general in nature as DENCOM realizes that the actual time spent in clinical practice will vary depending on command commitments, mission requirements, size and geographic dispersal of the command, and operational tempo.

c. RDC Commanders will monitor compliance with this policy within the region and will decide which DENTAC levels are acceptable based on mission requirements. The DENCOM Commander will verify compliance through the Command Assistance Program and the Quarterly Review and Analysis process.

SIDNEY A. BROOKS  
Colonel, Dental Corps  
Commanding